

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 80

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90—Relative to the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 3, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 90, Hueso. Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team.

This measure would declare the Legislature’s intent to work with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to take various actions to protect and preserve the Tijuana River Valley, to encourage collaboration with the team to protect and enhance our natural resources through improved management of sediment and trash, flood control, ecosystem management, and recreation and education, and to promote bilateral ties with Mexico that will be beneficial to the enhancement of one of California’s most resilient ecosystems.

WHEREAS, Originating in Mexico, the Tijuana River crosses the international boundary into the United States near San Ysidro, California, then flows westerly to discharge into the Pacific Ocean at about 1.5 miles north of the Mexican border where it forms the Tijuana River Estuary, partly located in the State of California and partly in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Parts of the Tijuana River Estuary are protected by the Department of Parks and Recreation as the Border Field State Park; and

WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Estuary is also protected by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and is designated as a “Wetland of International Importance” through the United Nations Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Estuary is one of only two coastal estuaries in southern California large enough, and unimpeded by development, to be resilient to climate change. It is also the only coastal lagoon in southern California that is primarily under public ownership and not bisected by roads and railroads, contributing to its economic resiliency and value; and

WHEREAS, The City of San Diego declared the existence of a state of emergency related to the potential for severe flooding in the Tijuana River Valley, posing a possibility of peril to persons or property; and

WHEREAS, Decades of scientific research prove that sediment, trash, and high concentrations of other urban, agricultural, and industrial pollutants carried in stormwater runoff flowing into California from Mexico currently threaten the Tijuana River Valley’s environmental health and viability; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the environmental impact caused by the transport and deposition of trash and sediment, the watershed is in danger of losing valuable ecological, recreational, and economic resources; and

WHEREAS, The only way to effectively restore and protect environmental and human health issues in the Tijuana River Valley is to address transboundary flows of trash and sediment at the source, requiring binational cooperation; and

WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team is a collaboration of more than 30 federal, state, and local agencies and other interested parties from both sides of the border focused on addressing sediment, trash, and associated environmental issues through the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy; and

WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy emphasizes binational collaboration on wastewater improvements, trash control, sediment and flood control, and ecosystem restoration; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature on behalf of the people of the State of California, declare their commitment to work with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to protect the valley's diverse and unique ecological, recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities and preserve this natural jewel located within a binational metropolitan area; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage collaboration with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to do both of the following:

(a) To protect and enhance our natural resources through improved management of sediment and trash, flood control, ecosystem management, and recreation and education.

(b) To promote bilateral ties that will be beneficial to the enhancement of one of California's most resilient ecosystems; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Secretary for Environmental Protection and to the author for appropriate distribution.